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Probe of CIA Is Unnecessary

Demand for a "full and complete" investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has all the earmarks of a witch hunt.

What Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, Democrat of Minnesota, hopes to accomplish is open to serious question. The harm such a superficial analysis could do to national security might be considerable.

The CIA is the most sensitive arm of government yet devised to keep an unseen eye on world trouble spots. How it accomplishes its super-secret intelligence task is hardly something to be paraded before the light of publicity.

Congress, through its own channels of information, the National Security

Council and the Administration have more than sufficient means at their disposal to keep a close check on the CIA.

That there is a need for close supervision of an agency so vital to the future security of the nation is unquestioned. But this supervision must be provided in such a way as not to impede the efforts of the CIA to do the job for which it was created.

The type of investigation proposed by Senator McCarthy would hamper CIA activities in some areas and utterly destroy its usefulness in others.

The Foreign Relations Committee must drop its harassment of the CIA and pursue matters more valuable to the interests of the nation. It has no dearth of important subjects in these troubled times.